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## SITUATION IS SERIOUS OVER LUSITANIA AFFAIR

### President Wilson and Secretary Lansing Will Hold Series of Very Important Conferences—Germany's Refusal to Disavow Torpedoing of Liners Has Brought Matters to the Breaking Point—German Embassy, However, Takes More Cheerful View of Situation and Believes That Understanding Will Be Reached

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Lusitania situation is very grave.

With German-American affairs thus delicate and entangled anew, President Wilson was scheduled to meet Secretary of State Lansing today in the first of a series of all-important conferences to determine America's future policy toward the Teutons.

The gravity of the case arises from Germany's refusal to meet the American demand for a disavowal of the torpedoing of the giant liner. No decisive step was planned for today, however.

President Wilson had before him the memorandum Ambassador Von Bernstorff presented to Secretary Lansing yesterday afternoon, wherein was revealed Germany's opposition to meeting the disavowal proposal. Germany stands ready to make further concessions to avoid a breach in relations between the two nations, but she will not disavow the incident, holding that such a step is too drastic.

The confidential report of President Wilson's personal envoy, Colonel House, now in the president's hands, is understood to say in substance that Teuton public opinion is so opposed to an admission of illegality in the case that the hands of the foreign office are practically tied.

Some authorities hinted that no drastic step will be taken by the administration until Colonel House, now at Paris, returns here. If the president rules against further negotiations, it is reported he will await a complete report from House before sending any ultimatum requiring an immediate disavowal, with the only alternative a diplomatic break.

The Lusitania cloud submerged political and congressional affairs for the time being. White House engagements have been cancelled, and President Wilson had dropped his preparedness work temporarily to plunge into an analysis of the German-American situation.

Moreover, the realization that America is nearer being embroiled in the European quarrel than at any time since the war started has aroused an element of tension in official quarters.

The point has been reached, where there must be a "show down," it is freely admitted. The administration has it known that, with certain demands will not back down. On the other hand, Germany had made it known that she refuses the American terms; this has been revealed in statements, intended for both nations, announcing that the Teuton government can yield no further.

Among officials here, Ambassador Von Bernstorff stands alone in viewing the situation optimistically. He insists that matters are not as serious as the Washington authorities regard them. President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, on the contrary, have let it become known that they consider a crisis in German-American affairs has been reached.

Will Confer Again.  
A second conference between Von Bernstorff and Lansing was booked for today, but it is understood it has been postponed until next week.

The diplomatic deadlock between America and Germany arises over the term "illegal" as applied to the Lusitania attack. In the absence of international law on submarine attacks when the Lusitania was sunk, and due to the fact that the Lusitania carried belligerents and some munitions, Germany insists that, even if the attack was unwarlike, it was not illegal. Further, Germany contends that a subsequent agreement to warn ships before torpedoing them does not apply to the Lusitania situation.

America insists on "illegal." On the other hand, the administration argues that under any law—national, international, moral or humane—the Lusitania torpedoing was illegal. The demand for a disavowal, while linked with the demand for admission of illegality is a distinct proposition. The administration asks Germany to repudiate—disavow—the act of the submarine commander for the reason of its alleged illegality.

While an implied disavowal by acknowledgment of the illegality of the incident might be acceptable, the admission sought is that the attack was outside the pale of written and unwritten law. Upon this point, an impasse has been reached.

Cannot Arbitrate.  
Berlin unofficial reports that arbitration of the question is suggested, have been received unfavorably in the past, and it is likely renewed suggestions will be similarly regarded. The administration has maintained that it cannot arbitrate so grave a question of national honor and cannot arbitrate the "wholesale slaughter of Americans and the sacrifice of innocent and non-combatant neutrals, including women and children."

While the matter of illegality is a strictly legal question which could be arbitrated under some circumstances, President Wilson insists that the present case transcends mere technicality. In the circumstances at least another exchange of notes is deemed likely. For even if the president refuses to parley further, and decided to risk a severance of diplomatic relations, an ultimatum will be forwarded as the culminating move in the prolonged diplomatic discussions. It is supposed that in such an event, Germany would then put the

postponed until next week. This is taken to mean that the German envoy will await the decision of President Wilson before making fresh proposals or discussing again the terms of Germany's latest memorandum.

The optimism of the German envoy is based upon a belief that he can propose a compromise acceptable to America, which Berlin would ratify. Whether his instructions permit him to concede more than yesterday's memorandum to Lansing showed is unknown. This memorandum, Lansing said, did not change the situation.

Bernstorff also believes that the house report will lead the president to accept a compromise.

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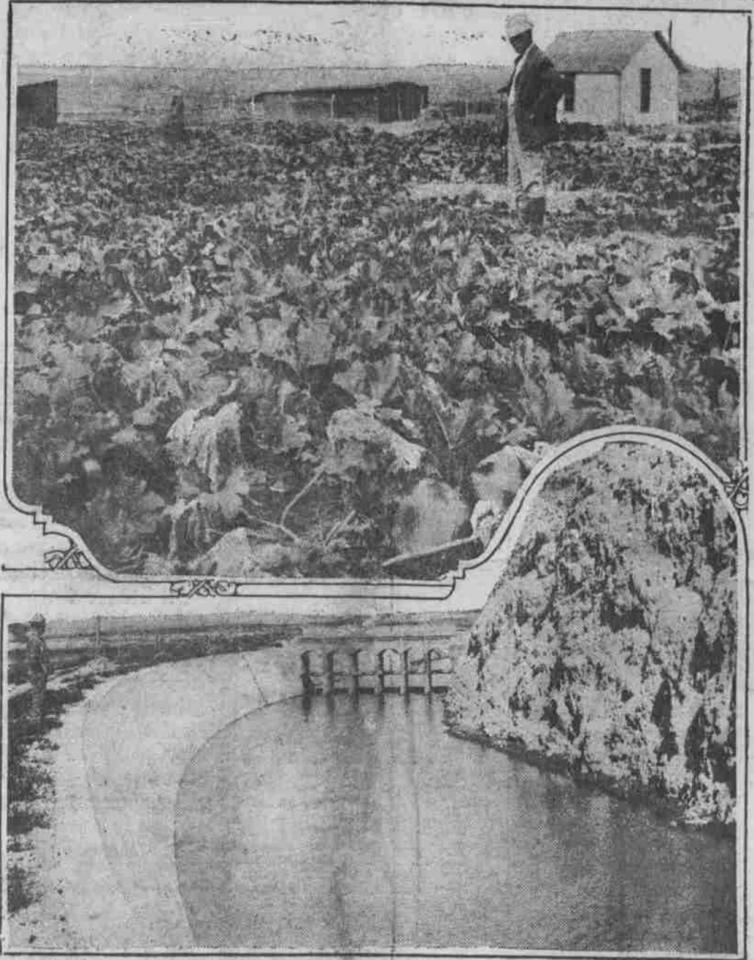
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## UNCLE SAM'S NEXT GREAT LAND LOTTERY TO BE HELD MARCH 24



Top, growing pumpkins on North Platte irrigation project; bottom, mitergate canal on North Platte project.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Uncle Sam's next great land lottery—the first for two years—will occur on March 24 at Alliance, Nebraska, according to an announcement by Secretary of the Interior Lane. On that date 14,000 acres of irrigated lands on the North Platte irrigation project will be handed out in 40 and 80 acre homesteads to those lucky in the drawing.

The North Platte project is one of the oldest and most successful of the government's land reclamation in the arid west. Its great storage reservoir is held behind the Pathfinder Dam in Wyoming. The dam is of masonry, and is one of the largest dams of this type in the world. The more modern government dams are built of concrete. The dam stores 1,025,000 acre-feet of water. An acre-foot is enough water to cover one acre a foot deep. The North Platte is a considerable river, given to high water when the snow is melting in the mountains. Yet the Pathfinder Dam is large enough to store over two-thirds of the entire annual run-off of the river.

During the freshest the excess water runs down the river from which it is diverted into the great canals by small concrete dams. Then when the normal water supply fails the storage reservoir is opened up sending water down the stream-bed to the diversion dams. The main canal is 150 miles long and is now irrigating about 100,000 acres. In extent of irrigable lands the North Platte is the largest of the government reclamation projects. The flat lands are now literally being irrigated from horizon to horizon. As canals are extended the government will have nearly 20,000 acres more to give out as homesteads on this project in the future. Including private lands, some day 125,000 acres will be covered by irrigation on the north side of the North Platte river alone. On the south side there are 200,000 acres awaiting irrigation which the government will some day furnish.

## MRS. MOHR HELD GUILTY OF HER HUSBAND'S DEATH

### Jury Returns Verdict After Several Hours' Spent in Deliberation

VERDICT NOT GUILTY  
Providence, R. I., Feb. 5.—The blood of Dr. C. Franklin Mohr is not upon the hands of his widow.

After several hours of deliberation, the jury in her trial acquitted her of the charge of murdering him; at the same time, however, it held that Victor Brown and Henry Spellman, negroes, jointly accused with her, were guilty of Mohr's murder.

## STREET CAR KNOCKED FROM TRACK BY AUTO CLIMBS OVER CURB

### Isadore Greenbaum's Auto Disputes Right of Way With Street Car

A Portland Eugene & Eastern street car was struck by Isadore Greenbaum's auto today and left the track and wandered down the street for about 30 yards before it finally climbed the curb and stopped with the front end of the car half across the sidewalk. The accident happened at 12:16 when the Asylum avenue car was coming down Chemeketa street on its return to town.

There were seven passengers on the car but none were hurt except W. C. Ostrander, who was slightly shaken up and was taken to his home. The front lights of the auto and the front springs were smashed and the front fender of the car doubled up when it hit the curb. The wheels of the street car ploughed through the cement curb and dug trenches in the parking.

## WOMAN MURDERED IN HER OWN HOME BY UNKNOWN MAN

### Mrs. J. R. Hinkle's Skull Crushed In With Stick of Wood for Weapon

When J. R. Hinkle entered the rear door of his home at 740 South 12th street at about 9:30 last night he was confronted by the body of his wife lying in the kitchen where she had been killed by repeated blows on the head with a stick of stove wood. There was a single small scratch on the face as if from a finger nail but her face had not been cut or rubbed with a knife as was reported in a sensational manner by the morning papers. The scratch on her face was in front of her right ear and was about two inches long and barely through the skin.

A deep cut in the back of her head (Continued on Page Three.)

## RUMANIA MAY ENTER WAR ON ALLIES' SIDE

### United Press Correspondent Asserts That Million Men Are Now Under Arms and That Last of Balkan Nations to Become Embroiled Will Be Actually Engaged Early In March—Great Britain Purchases Friendship of Rumanians By Large Purchases of Foodstuffs—Convinced Also of Strength of Allies

By Henry Wood.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Rome, Feb. 5.—Rumania, hitherto aloof from the struggle in the Balkans, is reported in private advices today to be ready to plunge into the fray on the side of the allies.

Her army, under a decree issued Thursday, calling the class of 1896 to the colors in advance, will bring her mobilization up to nine-tenths of full war strength. More than a half million sturdy Rumanians are massed on the Bulgarian and Hungarian frontiers.

Already, Bulgaria has closed the Rumanian frontier, except at the cities of Oporitose and Pebrugia, as she mistrusts the intentions of her neighbor Rumania. In this connection, it is pointed out that no Rumanians are concentrated on the Russian frontier, lending color to the reports that Rumania will link her cause with that of Russia and the entente.

Heavy artillery from Rumanian Black sea ports is being rushed to the Bulgarian frontier, while at the same time the Rumanians are fortifying the Bulgar border, expecting that the Bulgarians will drive against it, if Rumania attacks Hungary.

Several elements have tended to hasten Rumanian participation on the side of the allies. First concentration of Russians in Galicia and Bukovina, and the fact that the power of the Slav offensive in Bessarabia has partly offset the Russian retreat in Mesy. And, this has convinced the Rumanians that the Slavs are by no means "down and out."

Second, the arrival of Anglo-French reinforcements at Salonika has convinced the Rumanians that an allied offensive would cripple the Bulgars should they attempt to invade Rumania while the main Rumanian army was engaged against Hungary.

Third, the closing of the Rumanian border by Bulgaria and the closing of the northern and western frontier by Russia on account of troop movements has practically cut off Rumania from the world, making it imperative that she take sides for economic reasons.

Fourth, England's purchase of 80,000 carloads of Rumanian grain for \$50,000,000 in gold won the support of Rumanian grain growers because it convinced them of the financial strength of the allies.

## CANADIAN OFFICIAL MAKING BIG ROUND-UP OF SUSPECTED ALIENS

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—The greatest round-up of aliens since the beginning of the war was ordered by the dominion police today when their men at all points were told to apprehend all foreigners who left Ottawa the night the parliament buildings burned.

This step followed close upon destruction of the Ottawa parliament buildings in a fire of mysterious origin, the fire that did \$500,000 damage to Grand Holden and Graham company plant early today here, and the apparent effort of a stranger to reach the Victoria bridge, Montreal, for what authorities think was a blasting attempt.

It is now thought that the supposed bridge plotter lost his life by drowning, for his tracks were traced to open water.

A roundup of foreigners will be made more easy because railroads have turned over ticket numbers and destinations of alien passengers.

More Incendiarism.  
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 5.—While investigation of the parliament building destruction by fire was under way, a new blaze, believed to be incendiary, early today destroyed the war supply plant of Grand, Holden and Graham company. Thousands of dollars worth of clothing and haversacks were ruined, but the few men in the plant at the time escaped safely.

The watchman said he is convinced that a firebug was responsible.

Cause of Strony's Arrest.  
Windsor, Ont., Feb. 5.—Discovery of a picture of the Ottawa parliament buildings in the efforts of Charles Strony, director of French opera in the Chicago Grand Opera Co., strengthened official suspicions today that he was connected with the fire that wrecked the structure Thursday night.

Strony, who described himself as a Belgian musician, 28 years old, is held here incommunicado following his arrest last night as he arrived from Ottawa on a Canadian Pacific train, en route to Chicago.

The musician explained that he had played before the Duke of Connaught Thursday night and had hurried out of Ottawa to reach Chicago. Authorities had word from the chief of the dominion police that Strony was suspected, and that he had hazarded in a taxi cab to the station only two hours after the big fire started.

Strony Released.  
Windsor, Ont., Feb. 5.—After spending the night in jail here, venting his "temperament," Charles Strony, Belgian, Chicago Grand Opera man, was released shortly before noon today from arrest on suspicion of firing the Ottawa parliament buildings. A telegram from the chief of dominion police said the evidence against him was not conclusive and that he had been detained as a foreigner in order that he might explain his presence in Ottawa when the fire was raging.

Society Interested.  
Chicago, Feb. 5.—Theatrical and society leaders today burned wires to Windsor, Ontario, in efforts to gain the release of Charles Strony, director of French opera in the Chicago Grand Opera company held there on suspicion of being the firebug, who destroyed the Ottawa parliament buildings.

His friends regard as ridiculous the suspicions of the dominion authorities. In fact, they said, while Strony looks like a German, he is a Belgian, cherishing a sincere hatred for the Teutons. His wife and children are believed to be detained in Belgium by the Germans so his friends declare he could not be an anti-ally plotter.

Strony went from here to conduct concert in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec and Ottawa. Because of close connections with the Chicago train at Ottawa, he sped to the depot in a taxicab when the parliament was to its height. This occurrence, it is believed caused officials to feel that there was some ulterior motive for his haste.

Attempt to Wreck Bridge.  
Montreal, Feb. 5.—Want is believed to have been an attempt to wreck the big Victoria bridge was frustrated early today by troops. They fired on a man, creeping along the ice to the bridge, and then when a search-light had picked him out cleared, more shots were fired but he escaped. He had appeared previously just before midnight, but fled when challenged.

The bridge is one of the largest on the continent. Spanning the St. Lawrence river, it is used by the Grand Trunk railway, and by the street railway and for general traffic. Since the war started it has been closely guarded.

New York, Feb. 5.—Export and import business between the United States and South America totaled \$465,000,000 last year, the National City Bank estimates. This is \$92,000,000 beyond the best previous record.

**Abe Martin**

You kin git plenty o' followers if you've got th' price. Laf Bud received 89 centimes money t'-day, an' he can't imagine who sent it t' him unless it wuz his wife's mother.

(Continued on Page Three.)